Environmental Contaminants

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	FY 2007 Program Changes (+/-)	FY 2007 Budget Request	Change From 2006 (+/-)
Environmental Contaminants	$(000)	10,736	10,874	+232	-29	11,077	+203
	FTE	*101*	*101*		*0*	*101*	*0*

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Environmental Contaminants

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Program Management Savings	-29	0
TOTAL, Program Changes	**-29**	**0**

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

Program Management Savings (-$29,000)
To enable the Service to address its highest priorities during constrained fiscal times, the Service proposes reducing program administrative funding by $1,980,000. Using Activity Based Cost information and other budgetary analyses the Service anticipates achieving a savings of $29,000 in Environmental Contaminants. These savings will be realized by streamlining program administrative support activities.

Program Overview

Conservation through Cooperation, Communication and Consultation

The Environmental Contaminants (EC) program uses a cooperative and collaborative approach with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments, foreign governments and private citizens to identify and minimize contaminant related risks in the environment and to restore resources injured by contamination. Within this context, the EC program focuses on four priority areas:

- Identifying contaminant sources and appropriate management methods
- Restoring habitats and communities impacted by contaminants
- Providing technical services to others
- Pre-planning to reduce contamination during spill events and provide accelerated responses to spills

The Service, through the EC Program, contributes directly to the Department of Interior's Strategic Plan Resource Protection Goal of *Improving the Health of Watersheds and Landscapes Under DOI Management or Influence* by implementing strategies to restore and maintain the function of watersheds and landscapes. The EC program is preparing a strategic plan to define long term goals which will clearly describe the breadth and integration of EC program activities within the Service and DOI. This strategic plan will be completed in FY 2006 and will more clearly define the program's activities and continued support of the DOI Strategic Plan and Service Operational Plan.

EC specialists determine the sources and impacts of known and suspected contaminants on and off Service lands. For example, in FY 2004 there were 176 known hazardous waste sites on National Wildlife Refuges with only 18 being remediated. During 2006, our technical expertise will further aid managers in making decisions that eliminate or minimize these identified problems.

EC personnel are integrated into spill prevention activities and actively participate in local and regional responses and planning for oil spills and hazardous material releases, as well as oil spill and hazardous material drills. Through timely identification of environmentally sensitive areas and effective contingency planning, EC specialists help protect trust resources while significantly increasing the efficiency of responses to oil spills and hazardous substance releases. The program will work to develop a National Spill Response Team so that it will be in place in 2007 to foster our partnerships and increase efficiencies in addressing significant spills and releases. We believe this approach is a cost effective measure which ensures highly trained and skilled professionals will be enabled to address response specific needs of the Service and Department through coordinated work with the local EC biologists. This approach will provide a smooth integration into the response efforts and implementation of the National Contingency Plan. This work supports the recovery of listed species and serves to protect species that are identified as declining species. Additionally Comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plans will provide much needed data to identify important, sensitive resource areas for Contingency Plans.

EC specialists provide technical assistance to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), tribes, states, and local entities on the development and evaluation of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits and Total Maximum Daily Loads requirements of the Clean Water Act by fulfilling data needs regarding contaminant-related impacts to Service lands and other habitats associated with trust resources. These activities support the conservation of trust resources by reducing or eliminating threats on and off Service lands. The EC program also collaborates with other federal, state, and local agencies to review and formulate management plans for watersheds encompassing Service lands. This directly supports the efforts of the National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) by providing high quality water to support aquatic species.

The Service also contributes directly to the DOI Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of *Sustaining Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters.* Service specialists collaborate with federal, state, and local entities, non-governmental organizations and private citizens to conserve species and communities through technical assistance and review of management plans for species and their habitats. EC specialists also evaluate, modify and develop appropriate testing methodologies and procedures to determine impacts of contaminants on individual species and on biological communities. The Service monitors impacts of contaminants on trust resources through special studies on and off Service lands. These studies support management decisions on the conservation of trust resources.

The Service builds on past efforts to identify and work with partners on habitat restorations tied to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program. Restoration funds recovered through Natural Resource Damage Assessment cases can be leveraged to increase the amount of habitat restored and to speed up the pace of restorations. This leveraging is done in coordination with other Service programs (such as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Endangered Species Recovery programs), as well as other federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

The Environmental Contaminants Program has been using performance based information for several years in its resource allocation process.

- EC provides informational support to other divisions and agencies such as toxicological reports to the Endangered Species Program (Water Quality Criteria and Standards and pesticide registration); the National Wildlife Refuge System for Refuge cleanups, contaminant investigations, contaminant assessment and assist them with Integrated Pesticide Management; the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. EPA during hazardous material and/or oil spills so that issues may be addressed in a timely fashion. Our efficiency will be improved by further completing and implementing our strategic plans long-term goals and further coordinating and communicating these efforts within the Service and outside client agencies.

- EC uses contractors for chemical analysis because they are a more cost effective means to obtain necessary information. We maintain the highest quality data by working closely with the contractors before, during and after analysis through strict QA/QC protocols.

- Performance information is used to allocate resources in the Investigations part of the program. Proposals are evaluated based on scientific merit, management outcomes, trust resource impacts and a score based on the five-year Regional Performance. If Regions do not complete investigations in a timely fashion, their allocation is impacted. Through the Peer Review process, we prioritize the on and off Service land investigations, refuge cleanups and contaminant assessments. This process ensures that the work being performed meets the needs of the Service and maintains the high quality and scientific integrity of the data for effective management decisions.

- The use of Activity Based Costing will provide the appropriate avenue to report our accomplishments and accurately document our efforts while further aiding our identification, prioritization, and utilization of our recognized expertise.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

The Service intends to shift the focus of a large number of its EC Biologists in Regional and Field Offices to Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration activities. Beginning in 2006, the Service will accelerate restoration activities by drawing $2.8 million in funds from the Department's Restoration Fund. These funds have been collected from settled Natural Resource Damage Assessment cases and will be used to increase the rate at which restoration projects are completed. In FY 2007, the President's budget request funds the program at the FY 2006 enacted level, allowing us to fully and efficiently implement our realignment and focus.

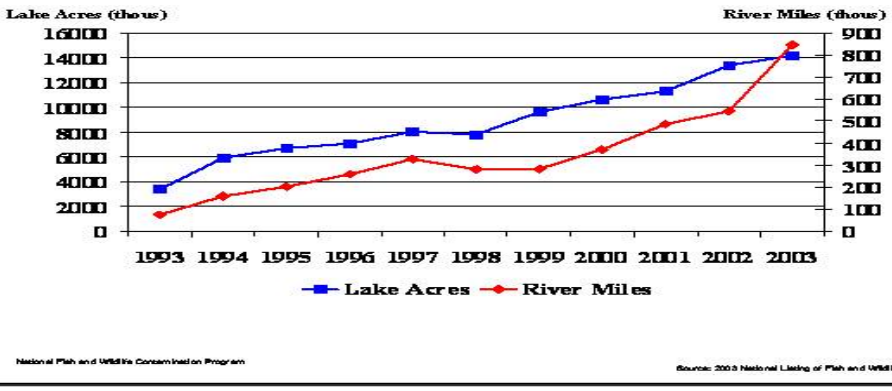
To facilitate this realignment, the EC Program intends to shift focus from traditional EC activities to efficiently address restoration activities. Specifically, the EC program will transfer responsibility for many of its activities to other programs and provide additional support as needed. For example:

- Pre-acquisition surveys (conducted to minimize the potential that the Service will obtain contaminated land) will by Realty Specialists and other Service staff that have undergone appropriate training. If contaminant-related problems are discovered, the Division of Realty will provide the necessary funds for the EC Specialist's participation.

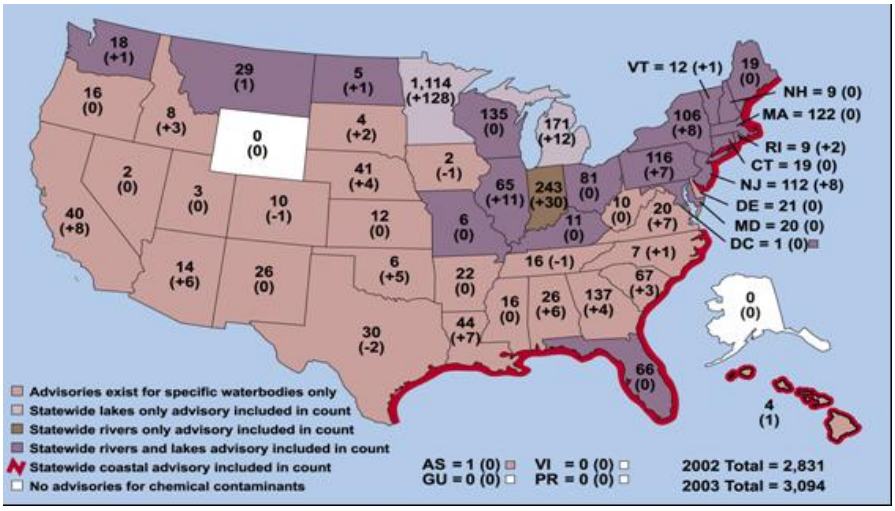
- Pesticide Use Proposals (PUPs) are submitted by Refuges and reviewed by EC Specialists to ensure that any pesticide used on Service lands is in compliance with Service and Departmental policy as well as any applicable regulations. The proposed reduction for reviewing PUPs will be compensated for by shifting more of the responsibility for PUP review back to Refuge staff, with EC Specialists providing technical support or oversight in a limited capacity.

- Field specialist review National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits, Total Maximum Daily Load limits for watersheds and Triennial Reviews. While we believe these activities contribute to the Service's mission, these activities would be reduced in favor of working with U.S. EPA on Endangered Species Act section 7 consultations for national water quality criteria. This work will have a much greater positive impact on Service trust resources because it will establish criteria which allow support for aquatic and aquatic dependent species. For example the Service's ability to improve the quality of the Nations waters, which are currently listed as impaired on States 303d lists and the increasing of fish consumption advisories (Figure 2), will be improved. Furthermore, there are currently 282 NWRs with fishing programs; however, there are 162 fish consumption advisories on those refuges.

Figure 2.
Lake Acres and River Miles Under a Fish Advisory



The technical assistance and consultations on national water quality criteria provided by the EC program will provide protective levels for aquatic and aquatic dependent species through wildlife and aquatic life criteria of pollutants on a large scale through watershed management. These efforts are targeted to aid in reducing the increasing trend in fish consumption advisories and degradation of aquatic habitats in concert with efforts of the Service's NFHI program, and Comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plans.



The Service provides technical support to the EPA on hazardous waste sites being remediated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("Superfund"). The Service also works with other federal agencies that are actively remediating hazardous waste sites they own (e.g.,

Department of Defense, Department of Energy, etc.). For the most part, our work with EPA is funded through a National Interagency Agreement. Occasionally, we also have funding agreements with other agencies to provide technical support for their own clean up efforts. However, the Service often provides technical support to EPA or other agencies without reimbursement. Beginning in 2006, we will only provide technical support on hazardous waste site clean ups if our costs are reimbursed, if we anticipate taking over a property following the clean-up, or if we suspect contamination from that property poses significant risks to Service lands or trust resources.

Internal Technical Assistance for other Service programs (e.g., Project Planning) using EC base funds will be continued for specific projects such as dredging, Corps of Engineer permits, Endangered Species and other traditional Ecological Services activities. Technical Assistance to external partners (e.g., other DOI Bureaus, federal agencies, tribes, states, and NGOs) will be provided on a reimbursable basis only. This includes technical reviews of environmental risk assessments and assistance on toxicological and biological studies.

In 2007, we will continue to focus our efforts on developing innovative approaches to bundling smaller, older settlements to maximize the ecological benefits of restoration projects.

2006 Planned Program Performance

The EC program is preparing a strategic plan for defining long term goals which will clearly describe the breadth and integration of EC program activities within the Service and DOI. This strategic plan will be completed in FY 2006 and will more clearly define the program's activities and continued support of the DOI Strategic Plan and Service Operational Plan. The plan will focus on EC program activities in 3 major categories: investigation, prevention, and restoration. A revised suite of performance measures will also be completed for the program as it moves to fully implement Performance Based Budgeting as required under the President's Management Agenda.

Beginning in 2006, the Service will accelerate restoration activities by drawing $2.8 million in funds from the Department's Restoration Fund. These funds have been collected from settled Natural Resource Damage Assessment cases and will be used to increase the rate at which restoration projects are completed. Because of the use of settlement dollars, activities funded by this money will be tied to the settlement agreements that provided those dollars. This acceleration of restoration activities is reflected in our performance goals for the number of wetlands enhance/restored through NRDAR to increase from 2000 acres in FY 2005 to 6,950 acres and we will increase our enhancement/ restoration of riparian stream/shoreline miles from 40 to 47 miles. Currently, there are approximately $166 million in the Department's NRDAR Restoration Fund. Last year the Service, working with its co-Trustees, utilized approximately $11 million from the fund to implement various restoration projects.

To facilitate this realignment, the Service intends to shift the focus from traditional EC activities such as pre-acquisition surveys, Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) reviews, review of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits, Total Maximum Daily Load limits for watersheds and Triennial Reviews, and ecotoxicological technical assistance, to efficiently address restoration activities. However, during 2006 EC Program base funds will be used maintain current levels of these activities.

Furthermore, the EC Program will work to develop a National Spill Response Team in FY 2006 to foster our partnerships and increase efficiencies in addressing significant spills and releases. This team will be in place by FY 2007. We believe this approach is a cost effective measure which ensures highly trained and skilled professionals will be able to address response specific needs of the Service and Department

through coordinated work with the local EC Biologists. This approach will provide a smooth integration into the response efforts and implementation of the National Contingency Plan.

The Analytical Control Facility will reduce the overall number of Quality Assurance checks performed on analytical data, currently, we validate the results of all analyses. Beginning in 2006, we will only validate a statistically relevant set of subsamples of the analytical results to ensure the validity of the data.

During FY 2006, the EC Program Office will also work closely with the regions to develop a national spill response team that will allow the Service to quickly mobilize trained and equipped response personnel during spills or other emergencies of national significance, such as those seen during the Katrina and Rita hurricanes of 2005.

The EC Program will continue to address and assist the National Fish Hatchery program in assessing and addressing potential contaminant issues affecting their mission. However, we will deemphasize individual reviews of National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System and Total Maximum Daily Loads permits. These will be more efficiently be addressed through nationwide water quality criteria consultations with EPA.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

Activities conducted by the Environmental Contaminants Program can generally fit into three main categories: Investigation, Prevention, and Restoration. The EC Program investigates the ecological impacts of oil spills and hazardous materials releases into the environment. We prevent these impacts from occurring by working with our federal, state and local partners to minimize or eliminate releases of these substances into the environment. Additionally, we restore habitats that have been impacted by contamination. Our 2005 accomplishments are listed below under these three categories.

Investigation
In FY 2005, EC biologists completed 18 clean up projects on National Wildlife Refuges, 30 contaminant investigations on refuges and 31 contaminant investigations off refuges. Investigations, while often initiated to address a local problem, often contribute to a national and international scientific dialog. For example, EC conducted more than 20 investigations on contaminants impact to eagles. In Region 3, the East Lansing Field Office (ELFO), in coordination with the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources, researchers from Clemson and Michigan State Universities, and independent cooperators, participated in the 2005 bald eaglet biomonitoring program. This 20 year long effort utilizes the bald eagle as an indicator species of water quality in the Great Lakes and major river basins/watersheds in Michigan. As a result of these efforts, Dr. Vladimir Masterov, Moscow State University established a Stellers Sea Eagle Biomonitoring Program on Sakhalin Island in the Russian Far East.

The Service prepared a post-delisting plan for bald eagles in FY 2005, and EC biologists from several regions contributed to the contaminants monitoring section. These efforts help ensure that contaminants monitoring is part of post-delisting efforts which is particularly important for these species, as pesticide use led to their original listing. As top predators they also remain vulnerable to bioaccumulative contaminants.

Oil Spill Investigations: The Service received 15,297 oil spill reports, of which we evaluated 8,534. We had 751 oil spill report follow-ups, and 188 oil spills on and/or affecting National Wildlife Refuges. EC responded to 94 oil spills, some of which were spills of National significance, including the *Selendang Ayu*, the *Athos I*, and spills related to Hurricane Katrina.

- On December 8, 2004, the freighter *M/V Selendang Ayu*, grounded spilling an estimated 335,732 gallons of heavy Intermediate Fuel Oil and marine diesel in the waters off Unalaska Island. This was the largest spill in Alaska since the 1989 *T/V Exxon Valdez* oil spill. The Service assumed responsibility as the federal lead administrative trustee for natural resource damage assessment and restoration for this spill. Working closely with the other trustees, the Service secured a record-breaking $4.6 million authorization from the U.S. Coast Guard national Pollution Fund Center for NRDAR (funding for assessing the incident). The Service entered into a series of cooperative efforts with the responsible party to carry out pre-assessment activities. Alaska maritime national Wildlife Refuge's research vessel and a specially equipped survey aircraft were mobilized to begin conducting bird and marine mammal surveys and carcass collection. NRDAR staff coordinated pre-assessment activities with co-trustees, the responsible party and contractors. The majority of the pre-assessment activities have concluded and the case is transitioning into the damage assessment phase. All pre-assessment activities are expected to be concluded no later than July 2006. The FWS and the co-trustees are currently entering into settlement negotiations for restoration activities with the responsible party.

- The New Jersey Field Office was the lead field-response office to the *M/V Athos I* oil spill that began November 26, 2004. The continued response efforts to the *Athos I* incident are expected to end in early FY 2006. The *Athos I* spilled approximately 267,000 gallons of a sweet, light-aromatic crude oil used in the production of asphalt, impacting about 70 miles of the Delaware River. Federal trust resources at risk included migratory birds and their habitats, five (5) National Wildlife Refuges, and five (5) bald eagle nesting pairs and their foraging habitats.

- On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall near the Mississippi-Louisiana border. High winds and storm surges caused extensive damage in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Coastal communities were hardest hit. Among the environmental concerns that resulted from the hurricane was the release of a wide variety of hazardous materials from the thousands of industrial, commercial, and residential facilities damaged or destroyed by the storm. EC biologists identified and assessed oil and hazardous releases to protect human health and the environment.

  More than 200 oil and hazardous materials spills resulting from Hurricane Katrina have likely caused some 7 million gallons of released oil was from refineries, storage tank batteries, pipelines, and off-shore platforms.

  Our National Wildlife Refuges were also impacted by oil and hazardous releases from Hurricane Katrina. For example, in addition to numerous smaller incidents, a large storage tank washed up on Texas Point NWR, located on the Texas/Louisiana border. This large tank 70,000 gallons of diesel was washed onto Texas Point NWR by the storm surge. It remains in about 2 feet of water, and is currently leaking.

Accomplishments of EC Biologists in Alabama and Mississippi as of October 4, 2005 include:

- Assessed approximately 140,000 square miles of waterways and coastal zones and nearly 6,400 miles of shoreline in Alabama and Mississippi;
- Resolved 2,315 of 2,380 cases reported to the Coast Guard and EPA;
- Assessed 504 grounded vessels for potential oil discharges;
- Collected ore than 10,000 hazardous material containers;

- Recovered about 43,000 gallons of fuel; and
- Assessed more than 200 facilities.

Hazardous Materials Releases Investigatiions: EC Biologists received 9,782 hazardous material spills reports, requiring 4,702 evaluations, 252 follow-up investigations, 42 spill site visits and 12 active Service participations in a spill response. Of these, 34 hazardous material spills occured on or impacted National Wildlife Refuges.

For example, approximately 120,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia leaked from a pipeline owned by Magellan in Kingman County, Kansas. An unnamed creek which flows just north of the release point was immediately impacted, and carried ammonia downstream to Smoots Creek and then into the Ninnescah River where pH levels greater than 9 were reported. A fish kill occurred on approximately 13 miles of stream. Both Smoots Creek and the Ninnescah River are critical habitat for the Arkansas Darter (state listed/Federal candidate). Approximately 22,000 Arkansas Darters were killed by the leak as were many other fish species. Air sparging equipment was placed at a downstream bridge in an attempt to remove the ammonia from the stream. EC Biologists from the Kansas Field Office assisted in the coordination of the fish surveys and other site evaluations. Agencies involved were EPA Region 7, the Service, State and County Emergency Management Agencies, and Apex Environmental. The Service and the other agencies are currently engaged in settlement negotiations with Magellan.

Prevention

Pre-Spill Contingency Planning: To ensure our preparedness in the case of an oil spill, 298 oil spill drills were held across the nation. The Carlsbad Field Office coordinated with the Department, the Regional Response Team (RRT) and the Joint Response Team (JRT) to conduct a 3 day spill response exercise September 2005, with the Mexican Navy in Ensenada. Wildlife rehabilitation was one component of the exercise.

Pesticide Use: EC Biologists provided technical expertise on 1,029 pesticide use proposals and 483 integrated pest management actions for the National Wildlife Refuge System. They also helped streamline the pesticide use proposal review process, a national online database was created and some regions are currently using a draft version of the database. This process was developed to assure that the most effective and least toxic method of pest control is used on Service lands and in Service projects.

Environmental Contaminants Biologists provided technical support on pesticide use by federal and state agencies in their efforts to improve habitat for federally listed species. These actions helped prevent unnecessary impacts to Service lands and facilitate continued management of invasive species. EC also consulted on 231 pesticide use and registrations packages. Early consultations, such as these, help prevent wildlife deaths by identifying problem pesticides before they are widely used.

Through the On-Refuge Investigation Program, EC biologists from R1 and R4 are collaborating on a document that will provide Service-wide guidance on the assessment of the risk of pesticides to trust resources. The intent of the document is to provide consistency in how the Service reviews pesticide actions such as Refuge pesticide use proposals, endangered species consultations, and EPA Office of Pesticide Programs registration actions that require Service input.

Water Quality Criteria Development: The Service conducted 5,424 Clean Water Act reviews, 918 Section 7 consultations on the CWA, and 51 acts of technical assistance with tribes on the CWA. These actions typically involve coordination with local municipalities, state agencies and other federal partners. EC Program involvement in Clean Water Act implementation includes national consultation on EPA's water quality criteria, consultation on state water quality standards, review of NPDES permits, and technical

assistance. Through these mechanisms the Service helps to ensure that measures to prevent water pollution are sufficient to protect DOI trust resources that live in or rely on the nation's waters.

EPA is in the process of revising their methods for deriving national water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life (i.e. CWA 304(a) aquatic life criteria) with assistance from the EC Program and NOAA Fisheries. These methods were last updated in 1985. Seven ecotoxicologists from the EC serve on committees (Aquatic Life Criteria Guidelines Committee and Subcommittees) that have been charged with revising the methodology. Several of the proposed revisions could directly influence/enhance protections for DOI trust resources.

Restoration

In FY 2005, 25 natural resource damage assessments were completed by the Service's Environmental Contaminants Program. An example of a recently completed settlement is the one reached between state and federal government natural resource trustees and Alcoa Inc. over mercury contamination in Lavaca Bay, Texas. Corpus Christi Field Office NRDAR and contaminants Biologists have been actively working on this case for over 15 years. Over $50 million has been or will be spent for cleanup in addition to assessment and restoration project implementation costs. This case is one of the largest environmental cases ever settled in Texas. Under the agreement, Alcoa will implement several restoration projects to compensate for injury to sediment and sediment dwelling organisms, fish and other organisms as well as compensate for impacts to recreational fishing in Lavaca Bay.

Nationally, the Service is currently participating in 63 damaged habitat restorations funded by natural resource damages settlements. Restoration actions were completed for 11 Restoration Plans in FY 2005. In FY 2005 there were 85 Restoration projects being implemented by responsible parties with oversight of EC Biologist, and eight (8) such projects were completed, resulting in the restoration/enhancement of 13,783 acres of wetlands and 12 miles of stream/shoreline habitats. These accomplishments exceed the program's goal of 2,000 wetlands acres due to a large NRDAR settlement related to an oil spill in our Northeast region.

Nationally, follow up monitoring of 36 restoration projects previously implemented under the NRDAR Program is on-going and implementation and monitoring activities were completed under 11 Restoration Plans. Monitoring may range from visual checks of the restored areas to more quantitative data collection that will be useful in determining which restoration techniques are the most successful.

Technical Assistance: The EC Program provided technical expertise on a variety of topics, including ecological risk assessments, water quality (TMDLs and NPDES permits), superfund sites, endangered species issues, Refuge assessments and cleanups, and to a variety of partners including tribes, other federal agencies, states, local governments, universities, and non-profit organizations. In total, the EC responded to 317 EPA sites where technical assistance was needed as well as responded to 2,554 requests for technical expertise from federal, state, and local entities and an additional 1,857 requests came from other Service programs. Lastly, we provided technical assistance on 539 partnership activities.

One unique example where technical assistance provided by the EC Program directly benefited a Service trust resource stems from a project which would use sand (cullet) made from recycled glass as a means of beach renourishment. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) contacted the North Florida Field Office with concerns about whether contaminant levels found in the glass-sand posed a risk to developing sea turtle eggs/embryos, should nesting occur in the contaminated glass-sand. By reviewing available literature regarding exposure and effects of the contaminants of concern (phthalates, lead and mercury), it was determined that the contaminant levels in the glass-sand were not likely to adversely affect sea turtle development. Although adverse effects appeared unlikely, we suggested that a

study be conducted to assess exposure and effects related to incubation using eggs from a surrogate turtle species. Also, since the contaminants of concern are known to adversely affect reproduction and development in rodents, the FWC was made aware of a potential risk to the federally-listed beach mouse due to the fact that plants (beach grasses) may uptake contaminants and transfer them to their seeds, which are primary forage for beach mice.

The effects of selenium to fish and wildlife are an issue of national importance. The program organized and managed a Service-wide selenium workgroup whose goal was to provide detailed and complex technical feedback to EPA on EPA's draft proposal to revise national aquatic life criteria for selenium. Selenium is one of the most potent fish and wildlife toxins known, and has caused repeated fish and wildlife toxicity episodes. Due to its association with agricultural, metals mining, and fossil fuel production activities, controlling selenium pollution is a broad national issue from both environmental and economic perspectives. The Service's technical comments were submitted to EPA via the Federal Register docket in May 2005. Recently, USGS and USFWS have unveiled a new selenium website which may be accessed by the public at:

http://wwwrcamnl.wr.usgs.gov/Selenium/Index.htm#

As EPA moves forward on revisions to national and state-specific water quality criteria for selenium, the program will continue to provide rigorous technical assistance on fish and wildlife toxicity profiles.

Program Performance Overview: Environmental Contaminants

Measure	2005 Plan	2005 Actual	Change from 2005 Plan	2006 Enacted	2006 Change from 2005 Actual	2007 Request	2007 Change from 2006
# of wetlands enhanced/restored through NRDA (including NRDA restoration) **(EC) (SP)**	2000	13,782	11,782	6,950	-6,832[1]	7,000	50
# of riparian stream/shoreline miles restored/enhanced through NRDA **(EC) (SP)**	40	12	-28	47	35	50	3
# of pesticide use proposals reviewed **(EC)**	900	1029	129	240	-789	240	0
# of spill prevention activities and spill responses **(EC)**	500	392	-108	400	8	400	0
# ongoing NRDA cases, final settlements, and other environmental assessments (**EC)**	250	175	-75	250	75	250	0
# of completed contaminant investigations and restoration on Refuges **(EC)**	36	30	-6	32	2	32	0
# of completed contaminant investigations **(EC)**	14	13	-1	12	-1	12	0
# of Clean Water act consultations (NPDES, TMDLs, Triennial Reviews) **(EC)** [2]	8,085	5,424	-2,661	1,408	-4,016[2]	1,408	0
# of Section 7 Consultations Pesticides -- Off Service lands - State and EPA consultations and technical assistance **(EC)**	250	231	-19	200	-31	200	0
# of Section 7 Consultations CWA -- Off Service lands - State and EPA consultations and technical assistance **(EC)** [3]	6,900	918	-5982	6	-912	6	0
# of restoration settlements having a recreational component **(EC)**	12	Est. Baseline	n/a	18	6	18	0

[1] Environmental Contaminants Target was exceeded due to a large NRDAR settlement related to an oil spill in our Northeast region. The pace of NRDAR settlement negotiations can be affected by a wide range of factors and completion dates are not always predictable; as a result, performance accomplishments may differ from targets in any given year.

[2]The realignment of the Environmental Contaminants program activities from individual NPDES/TMDL consultations to national consultations will result in a more efficacious method of addressing water quality issues through utilization of a consistent nationwide approach.

[3] Technical assistance and consultation off Service land will improve our ability to address Tribal, and State water quality through a national approach.

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